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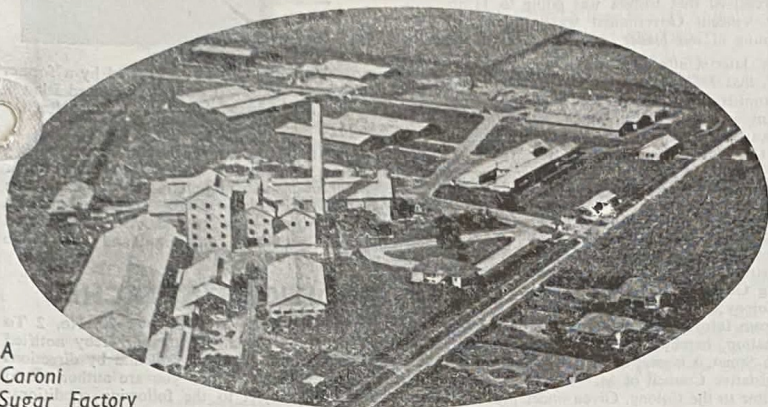
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January



1955

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.



A
Caroni
Sugar Factory

Yankee Infiltration

FOR half a century seven British oil moguls cornered 89% of Trinidad in their ravenous greed for oil.

Here was a corner of a foreign field that was 'forever' England—no competitor dare enter!

Alas, Mr. G. Vernon Tate, M.C., Chairman of CARONI LTD., announced in his Statement for the year ending 30/6/54 that he had sold for a price the oil rights on their sugar estates to a company under the doubtful title, DOMINION OIL, LTD. This company, he admitted, was a subsidiary of the great Yankee octopus Standard Oil of California.

So the pool of oil spills more gloom across this treasure, Trinidad, until . . .

Honduras bitten

ELECTED Representatives from British Honduras are reported in London, to have accepted the sum of £1,250,000 as a "development allocation" from the British Government, subject to Parliamentary rubber-planting.

Mr. Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies made the announcement in a Parliamentary reply on November 1st. The 'allocation' will be under the Colonial and Development Welfare Acts, which are the new guise for using British workers' funds to assist private capitalist exploitation of colonial territories.

Ask the workers of British Guiana who benefits from C.D. & W.'s timber mill? Did C.D. & W. offer an interest free loan to the goldfield workers?—or was it Tory Member of Parliament, Robinson, who was assisted to purchase a dredge, that he alone could not afford?

Is this 'allocation' the price that these leaders have had to pay to avoid the Guiana treatment?

What better proof than the announcement twenty-four hours' later on November 2nd, that all Guiana would yet remain denuded of democracy, for the foreseeable future? All Ministerial authority that accrued from the Waddington Commission (1951) recommendations, was swept away in one foul swoop.

The Report of the Robertson Commission (1954), ostensibly the premise for Lennox-Boyd's atrocity, has a lesson for every colonial. It should be read throughout Honduras and the only conclusion could be, Take the Guiana Road!

Joshua (St. Vincent) wins victory on appeal

THE PRIVY COUNCIL has granted the appeal of Mr. E. T. Joshua of St. Vincent against a conviction of "Public Mischief". Their Lordships found that there had been a misdirection of the Jury by the trial Judge and that in any event there was no evidence to go to the jury on the indictment as framed.

Mr. Joshua was charged before the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands in January, 1953 on three counts. The first and third charging sedition and the second a "Public Mischief".

The jury failed to agree on the first count and were discharged from returning a verdict, on the third count he was acquitted while on the second count he was bound over to appear for sentence when called on at any time within two years.

It was against this sentence Mr. Joshua appealed, first to the Windward and Leeward Islands Court of Appeal and then to the Privy Council.

The alleged "Public Mischief" consisted of making a public speech in which he was alleged to have accused the police of preparing armed action against the people in their fight for their rights.

Mr. Ralph Millner who appeared for Mr. Joshua in addition to submitting to the Court the grounds on which the appeal was granted also questioned the very basis of the charge by submitting that there was in fact no such offence known to the law as "Public Mischief" apart from cases of conspiracy where more than one person was involved.

Big Trap

The importance of this can be seen when it is realised that the words "Public Mischief" have no defined meaning and can be used to cover almost anything the authorities disapprove of which they cannot squeeze into the terms of any specific crime.

Their Lordships, however, though admitting the point was of importance and that there was substance in Counsel's submission gave no ruling on the point.

But while it will be left to some other case some time in the future finally to abolish this pernicious "offence" Mr. Joshua has done a public service in driving the first nail into its coffin. Although the appeal was won and it was made clear by the Court that the charge ought never to have been brought their Lordships refused to make any order for costs saying there were no special circumstances for departing from the ordinary rule in criminal cases.

Do you think it Justice when a man is charged and convicted of an offence which probably doesn't exist that it should cost him some £500-0-0 to take it to appeal to be told "you were not guilty—the Judge misdirected the Jury—and anyway there was no evidence to go to the jury?

ADAMS' MAN DEFEATED IN BARBADOS ELECTION

From our Barbados Correspondent

AT the bye-election in the parish of St. Lucy, Cameron Tudor, unofficial candidate supported by the Christian People's Socialist Alliance, was successful, winning 2-1 from Grantley Adams' candidate Garner.

The polling figures were: Tudor 1,518, Garner 771, and Greaves 558.

The "Beacon" (Adams paper) has accused Carlton Gill of the C.P.S.A. of clinching the election for Tudor, because of his energetic campaigning during the latter two weeks. It also accused him of being the ex-president of the first "Commie cell" and the usual drivel about spending a lot of "commie coppers".

In what has hitherto been the stronghold of Grantley Adams, the Alliance speakers are getting and holding large audiences.

Adams is on the decline. Soon the Alliance intends to prepare for bigger things as a Party in contesting a General Election.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

Commission's Report

LOUD clarion calls for 'democracy' ring glibly from the lips of Britain's representatives, upholding the 'democratic way of life', 'Western values', etc. ad nauseam.

At the same time the Report of the British Guiana Constitutional Commission justifies the vilest crushing of real democracy in Guiana.

Mind you, dictatorship is sanctioned also in the name of 'democracy'.

The Commission had an exercise in how to prevent the people of Guiana from electing the same representatives Britain had deposed. How to thwart the democratic process in Guiana.

But they make some damning admissions (from the Commission's viewpoint):

"... it is the general belief that the P.P.P. could still rely on securing a majority if elections were held in the near future on a similar franchise. We share this view ..."

And they can see no way out but recommend a "marking time" period, for how long they cannot say.

The Guianese will, however, be able to decide this by their unshaken stand behind the leaders and policies on which "most of the people were agreed—the demand for self-government, an end to colonialism and improvement of conditions."

All the actions given as examples of the elected Ministers' refusal to 'co-operate', and 'disruptive tactics', actually show quite a different picture—that the P.P.P. Ministers were always on the side of justice and better conditions for their electorate, the masses of poorer Guianese. Which is something unheard of in previous colonial 'governments'.

Indeed, it is clear to see that beneath all the little charges brought against the Ministers of 'misconduct', 'abuse', etc., the underlying cause for their deposition was that they intended to put into practice what is so often only preached by others—democratic rights and conditions for the people.

We are to assume that constitutional 'advance' is possible only where the local 'leaders' do the bidding of the Colonial Office and as long as they do not oppose foreign exploitation of their people and their country's resources.

If this soothing policy of steady advance and guidance to self-government by stages were true, then Jamaica and Barbados would be the most advanced, being the longest held of Britain's colonies.

In a generous lapse, the Commission is willing to concede full self-government to Guiana without delay, even with the "communist influence in the leadership of the dominant party ...". But it counters that the only thing preventing this is that Guiana does not have rich resources and cannot stand on its feet economically.

This Report (priced 3/-) should be widely read. It will be an education to any colonial. From the Appendix we quote an extract from the P.P.P. paper "Thunder", quoting R. P. Dutt's book "Britain's Crisis of Empire":—

"The freedom of the colonial peoples will be won, and is today being won, not through petitions or prayers or good behaviour or magnanimity of the rulers, but only through the strength of the national liberation movement, through the national revolution."

A Judge's Fancy

AN English judge is recently reported, in the course of trying a case brought against a Jamaican landlord, to have expressed the opinion that action must be taken to stop coloured people buying houses and turning out white tenants. Further, he suggested deporting such people.

Unless Justice be blinded in one eye, we may be forgiven for asking why it is that only coloured landlords turning out white tenants who are so offensive. What about white landlords turning out coloured tenants—a practice most common in this 'free' country. Or, for that matter, is the offence less serious when committed by a white landlord against a white tenant?

Fortunately a redeeming point was made by the Attorney-General, Sir R. Manningham-Buller, when in answer to a question by Mr. Cyril Osborne (Con. M.P. for Louth) he said:—

"I do not therefore propose to take any step to implement the judge's recommendation. It would be deplorable if it were supposed that the application of the law in this country depends on the colour of a person's skin."

The point is that malpractices and bullying by landlords of all colours are to be fought. Such actions by the relatively few coloured landlords in Britain follow the pattern set by capitalist society.

Leading Vincentian Politician Banned Again

from Alma Johnson
Secretary, St. Vincent Federation of
Industrial & Agricultural Workers

THE question of banning of West Indians by British West Indian Governments, apparently a basis for their brand of W.I. Federation, still continues with mad fury. The latest one on record is that of our Hon. President.

Joshua applied for 14 days' leave of absence from the Saint Vincent Legislative Council. As soon as the application was received that Joshua was going to Trinidad, the Saint Vincent Government was at work to secure the banning of our leader.

A few weeks' later a statement was made from the people's forum, that Joshua was going to England. Mr. Coutts the Administrator, forthwith informed the Trinidad Government and other W.I. Governments to ban Joshua. This was how the various W.I. Governments reacted to the C.O.C. of Administrator Coutts.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

"The Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance, Ch. 20, No. 2. In exercise of the powers conferred on the Governor-in-Council by par. (h) of Section 4 of the Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance, I Maurice Henry Forman, Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, in Executive Council, from information which in my opinion is reliable information, hereby deem Ebenezer Theodore Joshua, Middle Street, Kingstown, St. Vincent, a member of the Legislative Council of St. Vincent, to be an undesirable visitor to the Colony. Given under my hand this 24th day of August, 1954.

(Signed) M. Dorman, Acting Governor."

This was done to debar Joshua from getting passage to London via Trinidad. The Administrator also cabled to Savage, the Governor of British Guiana, asking co-operation, and while Joshua was in Trinidad, the Guiana newspapers published that Joshua was banned from Guiana.

Joshua sailed for Trinidad on the 17th of October. One hour before he sailed the Superintendent of Police of St. Vincent, Major Anderson, informed him that he (Joshua) would not be allowed to land in Trinidad. That was the very first indication Joshua had that a ban was placed against him in Trinidad. The most fantastic part of this affair is that Joshua is a resident of Trinidad and Tobago.

PANICKY

On Joshua's arrival at Grenada, the same Government of which he is a part (the Windward Government) sent off large platoons of policemen and soldiers to the "Orion", the vessel in which he was travelling, to tell him (Joshua) that he could not land in St. George's as there was a ban against him.

This act tells us how foolish colonial governors can be. Despite the fact that three years ago Governor Arundell placed a ban against Joshua in Grenada, Betham Beetham, the present Governor, was childish enough to send soldiers and policemen to guard our comrade on the "Orion".

Governor Rance, however, remembered Nelson, the Trinidad Guardian Political Correspondent, the Mussions

Round the Merseyside

from our own Correspondent

ARISING from the resuscitation of the Merseyside West Indian Society, a new programme was launched, and we started a vigorous campaign within the Labour Wards against racial discrimination. We have also circularised the Labour Party Wards and special constituencies from which we have had a fairly good response; we have met up till now seven Labour Party ward officials and their members.

We are now busily drafting a memorandum to be submitted to four Party Wards as requested by them, also an Economic and Financial statement on the lines how we believe the Caribbean Island could be developed and hence cessation of West Indian immigration.

We are also about to take the necessary steps to bring about one broad colonial organisation. We have had two joint E.C. meetings with the C.P.D.A., laying the basis for joint co-ordination at all levels.

Our annual and presentation dance was held on the 30/11/54, at the Holiaks Hall, Smithdown Road, Liverpool.

Hon. E. T.
JOSHUA
Elected
member
St. Vincent
Legislative
Council



who were recently deemed and imprisoned by a former Colonial Secretary, and Pratt from the Leeward Islands, all of whom filed successful appeals against Rance's deeming.

The Immigration Launch which bore down on the "Orion" called at once for Joshua (note his brother Joseph had accompanied him). It turned out that while Joshua was on the high seas, the Governor made a conditional permit for him to land. After that period he would be a prohibited immigrant and undesirable visitor to Trinidad.

CONDITIONS ATTACHED

"Issued under Section 12 of Chapter 20, No. 2 To Ebenezer Theodore Joshua. You are hereby notified that you are a prohibited immigrant and by directions of his Excellency the Governor you are authorised to enter the Colony subject to the following conditions: (1) That the duration of your stay to this Colony shall not exceed 14 days from the date of your entry into the Colony. (2) That you shall not during your stay in this Colony attend or take part in any public meeting or political activity. Dated 20th October, 1954."

Cables telling of Joshua's arrival in Trinidad were received days after he and his brother arrived. This is the manner and methods used by colonial governments in the whole W.I. They harp Federation with one breath, with another there is a concerted plan to keep the true leaders of the people muzzled from expressing opinion.

The poor Rich from St. Kitts

by our FINANCIAL WIZARD

THE British tax-collector has collared £33,996 in the name of Her Majesty's Crown from the proceeds of the ST. KITTS (LONDON) SUGAR FACTORY.

Accounts are annually made up to August 31st. Sad story? well, the Directors (including the former Governor of British Honduras, Sir Alan Burns) secured more than DOUBLE profits of a year ago—£41,442. Last year the poor devils only had £20,309; anyway they still received a 15% dividend as their share of the spoils.

The associated companies, Antigua Sugar Factory, St. Madeline Sugar Company, Ltd. (Trinidad), Grays Inn (Jamaica) Central Factory, Ltd., will have reaped a similar crop. However, Forward to Federation! soon there must be a West Indian Workers' harvest.

... and TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS

THANKS to the boys at home profits have risen from a net figure of £1,774,652 to £1,851,629 (nearly ten million West Indian dollars).

Naturally the dividend is up, too—on the surface it is 20%, the same as last year; but what about the £1,639,452 that the shareholders had given to them a year ago under the heading of "CAPITALISATION"?

I tried to explain this last month with reference to STE MADELINE SUGARE ESTATES of the Moody-Stuart kingdom—it's the same!

Every man who had one share a year ago, as a result of "CAPITALISATION" has two today. Simple, eh! a double dividend or 40%.

Still more plans are afoot for expanding the refinery, so no one need fear that the oil is running out, especially the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union.

Sugar men out

WORKERS on seven sugar estates in Trinidad have demanded that the employers meet them to discuss recognition of their union, the Federation of Sugar Workers and Cane Farmers.

About 3,500 workers went on strike on November 22nd for union recognition. One estate came out on November 15th, the other six started a week later in sympathy. At the time of writing (December 15th) five estates are still out.

PRICE CUT

THE Ministry of Food in Britain have announced (November 19th) that they are cutting the price of sugar purchased under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement for 1955 by 5/- per ton.

For 1954 the price was £41—for this year £40-15-0. Rubbing salt into the wound, we are informed that this "protective" Agreement will now run to the end of 1962.

Another blow to that reported in "Caribbean News" (October) when sugar production was drastically cut to keep profits high. So the sugar colonies suffer more and more as they pay the price of colonialism.

The rub is that lower prices for sugar are taken out of the sugar workers in the end. The bosses are not the ones to take a loss, as their profits keep rising.

BOOK WORLD

Nisso

(Foreign Language Pub. House, Moscow, 6/-, from Collets Bookshops)

LUKNITSKY, a Soviet scientist, went on a Tajikistan expedition. He studied the life and traditions of these people who live in the most inaccessible valleys of the Pamir Mountains, and was impressed by their energy and intelligence, though brutalised by poverty.

Soviet power had not yet penetrated this "lost world of high mountains". On his first expedition in 1930, he was captured by the "Bas Machi". These mercenaries of the still powerful feudal Lords, and petty Khanates, had been supported for many years by foreign agents from across the border. His experiences as material character, and events are taken from true life.

This book, I think, will be an inspiration to especially Colonial people for generations to come.

This story is an epic of human courage and self-sacrifice in that noblest of endeavours—the liberation of the so-called backward races of mankind.

The author's actions and characters are of universal significance. He shows the exploitation of backward races, and also shows that this exploitation can be ended.

The girl Nisso is the indomitable spirit of her people. Her mother was killed trying to escape from slavery. She ran about the village naked. At the age of 13, she was sold to the Khan who ruled with the iron rod, "as all colonials will understand".

★

Nisso fled from the Khan to the mountains where she lived on roots and grass. At last she reached the village of Slatang, where she was saved from death at the hands of the mountain peasants by Sho-Pir, the only Russian representative in the Siatang Valley.

Sho-Pir, was an ex-Red Army man whose Russian name was Medvedev. This Russian representative believed in the people, he was sick with the rules and bad conditions of the people imposed by the Khans.

One-by one he gathered the people around him, and despite mistakes and disasters, the story is a triumphant demonstration of man's power to control nature, and build for himself a new life for the future. Nisso became the wife of Sho-Pir. The parasitic Khans are no more, and the people of Siatang march forward under the banner of Socialism.

How true and realistic this book will be to any West Indian or Colonial.

Yet, how natural it could be for thousands of people, under socialism to remain in their own land of birth,

HAPPY YOUTH TO MEET IN WARSAW

SINCE its birth on November 10th, 1945, in London, the WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH has successfully carried out its aims for which it has so ardently strived, that is, peace and friendship among all youth of the world, regardless of colour, nationality, religious or political belief.

Under the joint auspices of the W.F.D.Y. and the INTERNATIONAL UNION of STUDENTS four FESTIVALS of YOUTH and STUDENTS for PEACE were held in various countries. At these gatherings thousands of young people from over a hundred different countries participated.

From July 31st to August 14th next year the Fifth Festival will be held in Warsaw.

The YOUTH and STUDENTS' COMMITTEE of the C.L.C. which is organising the West Indian delegation, has already begun its preparatory work to this effect. The cost would be about £28, and in order to facilitate and encourage West Indians in Britain, a saving scheme has been inaugurated.

For further details write to the "Youth Organiser, Caribbean Labour Congress, 3 Robert Street, N.W.1."

In the following issues of "Caribbean News", young West Indians will give their personal impressions of preceeding Festivals.



West Indians mix with youth of several nations at the Bucharest Festival, 1953

LETTER BOX

Dear Editor,

All power to your paper, I read it with great interest each time I receive my copy. I am indeed amazed at the strength of the West Indians in London, and it is a real example to other overseas, even in Montreal.

I have no startling news to report about myself, except that I have a job for which I consider myself grossly underpaid.

PEGGY, Montreal, Canada.

and develop their resources instead of running away, because of the squalor which is caused by the Khans and Imperialists who rule the Colonial territory.

Dates and Events

I HAVE just read 'HISTORY OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES' by Sir Alan Burns, G.C.M.G.

Here is a massive volume of recorded statistical material, complete with dates, appendices, and bibliography. Sir Alan put in some very hard work compiling information that was scattered in a thousand publications, works, theses, and White Papers. As a Colonial Governor in the Gold Coast, British Honduras and Nigeria he has doubtlessly had the time and leisure to absorb himself in fascinating research that many others have been deprived of because of their personal status.

From his island pinnacle the author has wholly exposed "how divorced a Colonial Office official is from the minds of the people."

The HISTORY is absolutely devoid of any social content. Under the banner of "objectivity" the St. Kitts events 1896 (the birth place of Sir Alan Burns) and Jamaica, 1865, are recorded with what appears to be international neglect of the main factors giving rise to widespread revolts.

On the one hand one might say that colonial revolts are everyday events and too much treatment would obviously monopolise the HISTORY. To think, however, that six words in a sort of diary, chapter 22, is sufficient to record the historic WATER RIOTS of Trinidad, 1902, is certainly outstripping the bounds of "objectivity".

Notwithstanding the shortcomings, we must welcome this comprehensive recording of facts and dates in relation to the West Indian Nation. At 70/-, the Publishers GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN, LTD., have precluded thousands of ordinary people who will need and want to acquire this HISTORY OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. I recommend the pooling of funds in clubs, groups, or committees, as an escape from the high price.

The fabric remains to be woven across the scaffolding that is set out before us, and I am certain that internationalists and West Indians alike will eagerly look forward to that publication.

Owen MacAnuff of Brosett Road was fined 40/- or 14 days for larceny of one coconut, valued 3d., the property of Errol Flynn, movie actor. — (Jamaica).

ENGAGED

THE announcement of the engagement of two of our fellow compatriots, Mr. Derrick Wallford of Hope Road, St. Andrew, Jamaica, and Miss Sylvia Patricason of Kingston, Jamaica, was followed by a party attended by close friends and relatives in Kilburn, London, on Saturday, November 27th. Toasts were drunk to their health and early marriage. The atmosphere was reminiscent of a Caribbean night and the aroma typically West Indian was in the air. RUM!

Gravediggers strike

ONE thousand municipal workers, including gravediggers, of Georgetown, British Guiana, have gone on strike.

They are protesting against the Georgetown Town Council's refusal to grant a Christmas bonus.

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GUIANA - The Road Backward

AFTER nearly a year of pent-up anxieties and expectations, the Report of the Robertson Constitution Commission was finally released on 2nd November, 1954. The recommendations came as no surprise. Actually from the inception of the appointment of the Commission, they were a foregone conclusion.

The whole thing was no more than a farce. The British rulers, of course, in their attempts at deceiving and throwing dust in the eyes of colonial peoples, delight in indulging in such farces, in parading such ever-recurring commissions of enquiry.

Firstly, the Commission completely justified and white-washed the British Government's action in destroying the Constitution and removing my Ministers and myself from office. In its own words: "We are satisfied that the set back to orderly constitutional progress in British Guiana was due not to defects in the Constitution, but to the fact that those in control of the People's Progressive Party proved themselves unscrupulous in their own disruptive and undemocratic ends."

The "disruptive and undemocratic ends" refers needless to say, to the "sinister" extremists, the communists. But while the red-herring of communism has been given as the major reason for the rape of our Constitution, the burden of argument is that the Constitution was lost because of our previous attitude to it. Extracts of our speeches and writings criticising the constitution provide a full documentation.

THEY KNEW THEN

It is true that we were severely critical of the limitation of the Waddington Constitution—its governor-nominated Upper House with delaying powers; its retention of the portfolios of finance, defence, foreign affairs, police, information and justice in the hands of Government officials appointed from London; and finally the veto and reserve powers of the Governor. But it is equally true that our views on the Constitution and for that matter on communism were well known to Whitehall before the election and the assignment of our portfolios in April and May respectively of 1953. The destruction of the Constitution was caused not by our refusal to work it because of our preconceived views. The fact is we were working it. The snag came about because we were working it not according to plans carefully laid down.

The Constitutional structure was not designed to accommodate six P.P.P. Ministers in a policy-making Executive Council of ten. But once having got control of the Executive Council our working of the Constitution could have led and was leading to only one inevitable conclusion—the exposure of the Governor and the limited Constitution. It was really to forestall this exposure that the troops marched in in October, 1953, and not because of our 'disruptive and undemocratic ends.'

And what of the future? We are, therefore, driven to the conclusion, said the Commission, "that so long



by
**CHEDDI
JAGAN**



as the P.P.P. retains its present leadership and policies there is no way in which any real measure of responsible government can be restored without the certainty that the country will again be subjected to constitutional crisis.

"We have no doubt that British Guiana, with its precarious economy, cannot afford another crisis of the kind that developed in 1953, and we can, therefore see no alternative but to recommend a period of marking time in the advance towards self-government."

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

But it isn't the "present leadership and policies" which was really bothering the Commission. That was there all the time. It was there at the time of the visit of the Waddington Constitution Commission in 1950-1951. The only difference is the assessment of public confidence in the People's Progressive Party.

The Waddington Commission did not have its nose to the ground. Assured that no party system would be fully developed in less than five to ten years, and assured that we would not win a majority at the General Elections, it dared to give us a "liberal" Constitution with a policy making Executive Council of 6-4 in favour of the elected members. Our phenomenal success at the April, 1953, elections of eighteen out of twenty-four seats clearly upset their time table.

The Robertson Commission, on the other hand, is not to be caught in the same trap. They have "sounded" the people. In this they have no doubt been helped by the advice of many spies and "impartial" observers who have visited our shores since October, 1953.

'LITTLE DOUBT'

A correspondent of the "Times" of London observed that we were "deeply enmeshed" and our "influence has in no way diminished." He added "There is little doubt what the result of another general election would be. The P.P.P. remains the only organised political body in the sugar estates and the villages. The new Party, the National Democratic Party, has made little impact and is almost unknown in many places."

Thus having found that the people's confidence is still 100 per cent. behind the P.P.P., the Commission could come to only two conclusions.

One, the proscription of the Party and the disfranchisement of some of the "extremist" leaders. The other, postponement of the elections and "marking time".

The latter was accepted in preference to the former, for proscription doesn't really destroy. The Indian National Congress for instance was banned, but it finally led the Indian people to independence.

Disfranchisement of the "extremist" leaders, however desirable (from the Commission's viewpoint), was dangerous. There is world public opinion to be reckoned with. It would have meant importing here the fascist method of Dr. Malan of South Africa, whose government after 'naming' individuals as communists, prohibits them from either sitting in Parliament or holding official posts in trade unions.

But why the period of marking time? The Commission realistically but quite unashamedly considered "what the outcome would be of an immediate attempt to restore a measure of power to elected representatives, by which we mean a representative legislature and a retention of some form of ministerial system."

DILEMMA

In paragraph 211, they said that we would more likely contest rather than boycott any elections; and after such elections, either:

- (1) refuse to take our seats; or
- (2) with a majority, refuse to elect Ministers and thus be obstructive; or
- (3) elect Ministers and again provoke a constitutional crisis.

The Commission no doubt, had in mind the background of the Indian struggle with boycott of elections, resignation of Congress Ministers, etc., but the obvious answer to this is — so what? Isn't that strictly constitutional? Since October, 1953, Governor Savage has been persistently saying that all talk of non-co-operation is stupid. And now the commission comes out with no constitution, no voting, no elections. What is there left to the people? Are they to follow their imperialist masters?

Quite indefinite will be "this period of marking time", this period of stalemate and retrogression.

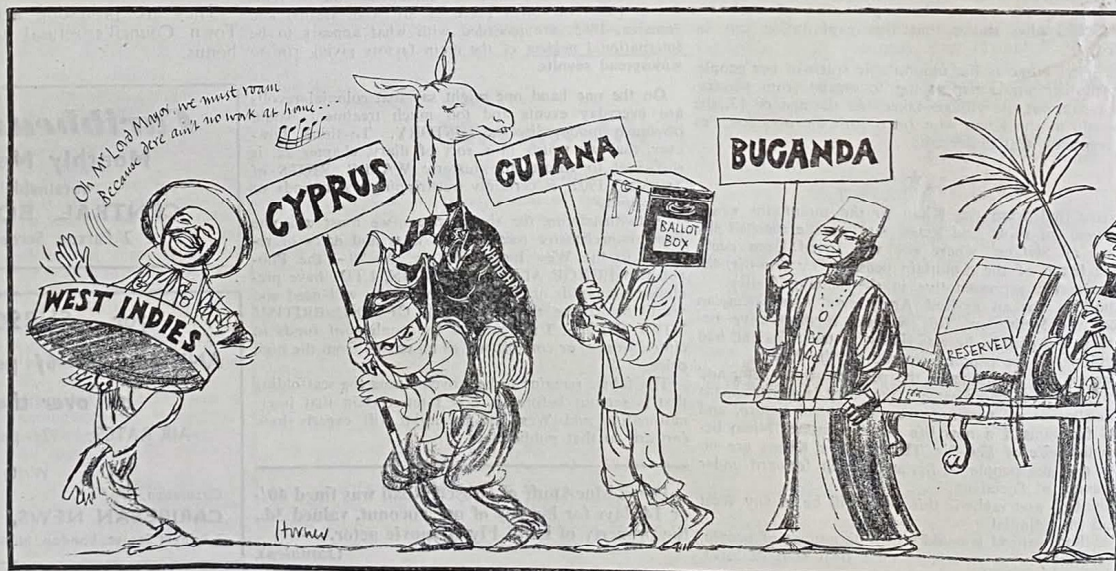
The Commission lays it down: "We cannot estimate the length of the period which should elapse before the advance towards self-government is resumed. Everything will depend upon the extent to which the people of British Guiana including the leaders of the P.P.P. themselves, can be brought to the realisation that the futile and deliberate disruptive policies for which the P.P.P. at present stand are no basis for the future constitutional progress of their country".

BRITAIN'S HYPOCRISY

The Robertson Commission is an exposure. But the exposure is of Britain's hypocrisy about leading colonial peoples to self-government. Britain's democracy for colonial peoples can have only one meaning—colonials have a right to vote, but they must only vote for those whom their masters designate. Otherwise their right to vote will be suspended—suspended until such time as they change their mind, throw out their militant leaders, and sacrifice their anti-imperialist policy.

★
A view
of the
Lord Mayor's
procession
in London

★
by kind
permission
of the
News
Chronicle



BRITISH WEST INDIAN STUDENTS

MANY happy returns to the Executive Committee and members of the West Indian Students' Union. We of the Youth and Students' Committee of the Caribbean Labour Congress follow their activities with interest.

Christmas in England, to quote their message "is not celebrated in that lively spirit as is experienced in the West Indies". But, quite rightly, they point out that mass unemployment at home must make Christmas a pretty dreary occasion for thousands.

We join with you in resolving to consider all plans for the betterment of our people in the coming year as we hope you will join with us whenever there is a chance of implementing them.
[By Youth and Students' Committee, C.L.C.]

... and French W.I. students complain

MEANWHILE, in Paris the Martinique Students' Association have adopted a concrete and elaborate plan of activities for 1955.

Their four-part programme which includes some 17 points, covers every aspect of colonial students' life in the metropolitan country. Of particular interest to "British" West Indians is their proposal to develop cultural relations with other West Indian students, and to emphasise the solidarity of all colonial peoples in their struggle to obtain those rights embodied in the U.N. Charter.

Provision is made for calling a Congress of all French West Indian and Guianese students in 1955. May 23rd is to be celebrated in honour of those heroes who fell in the struggle of all West Indian peoples against slavery.

Oppose Colonial Policy

THE London Co-operative Party's Annual Conference has given "full support for a resolution proposing that the next Labour Government should initiate an investigation into Colonial conditions by a body of working class representatives.

"The motion called also for a reversal of policy in regard to Central African Federation, a reversal of Tory Government actions in Buganda and British Guiana, an end of military and police campaigns in Kenya and Malaya, and for the right of the people of Cyprus to determine their own form of government."

"Reynolds News", 21/11/54.



Billy's Corner

★
by Billy Strachan
★

Press and People

OVER the latter months of 1953 it was fairly clear that British Government policy was leading to an official colour bar in Britain. For from the wishes of millions of ordinary coloured and white people for an official law making the colour bar illegal, the contrary is a sad fact.

Look back and recall the hollow words of John Strachey, who as Minister of Food in 1949 declared that he would soon take action against any reported offenders in restaurant or public house. But his government found it quite unnecessary to legislate.

Well, on Friday, November 5th, Mr. Hopkinson, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, confirmed my suspicion when he stated that his office was considering the possibility of legislation for the control of emigration from the West Indies — in reply to Mr. J. B. Hynd, Labour Member of Parliament for a Sheffield constituency.

Politics & Principles

Fighting for a few lines in the columns of the national press to forestall Hopkinson and so forewarn public opinion, I contacted four leading national papers which offered possibilities of co-operation (?)

All, without exception, pooh-poohed my fears, suggesting that the immorality of such actions would never enter the mind of the worst possible governments in Britain.

Dawn arrest in Trinidad

WE print this letter which arrived late at our office from a Trinidad school-teacher, Mr. Mervyn MacFarlane. We ask readers to bear in mind Sir Winston Churchill's boast that in England no one need fear "the policeman's knock in the wee hours of the morning".

"At 6.45 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6th, two members of the Police Force came to my house with a search warrant. They searched for about an hour and a quarter. I had scores of books, papers, pamphlets and magazines, etc., and it took them that long to go through all.

"While they searched they took note of all the progressive books and their publishers and at the same time scattered them widely in what seemed to be an effort to make as great a mess as possible. They found and took away a copy of 'Caribbean Clarion'. Many other homes were searched on the same day and time.

"One other person was brought to the Courts with me, but the Police had no case as they were unaware of the very existence of the books they seized, and furthermore these were not banned. I was fined £20 with the alternative of three months. I entered a guilty plea. I borrowed the money here and there and paid within the two weeks allotted.

"It took more than two months after the raid for a Legislative Council Member to raise a question on the incident. Three months passed before I was sentenced. And, of course, efforts have been made to dislodge me from my job."

One well-known weekly completely discarded my appeals; another Sunday paper operating under a "left" label argued with me until after 2 o'clock in the afternoon on November 5th that it was so morally outrageous, the Government, NO GOVERNMENT, would dare! Another daily, so confused, so beguiled by political intrigue, hesitated with scepticism, and the "DAILY WORKER", the only one, after reasoned discussion, provided four or five column inches in their sadly overburdened daily.

On re-opening discussion with the feature writer of the Sunday Special at 8 o'clock in the evening after Parliament's announcement, the wily journalist without the o'd-world charm of crying, 'touché' and trying yet to make amends, argued that possibly this action was approved by the Parliamentary Labour Party and was therefore the wish of the people and therefore incontestable!

This was the price of a prostituted press produced in the interests of the God of Profits.

The 'Good' suffer

I HAVE just read a tale of woe from the directors of the ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY. The London "Times" reported that the shareholders' meeting will take place on December 30th. Christmas will have passed and they will be offered the Annual Report which will show a loss of £11,385 for the year ending August 31st, 1954.

Last year the profits were up £22,733.

So the first victims of the Sugar Cartel called the INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL have fallen.

Knowing a smattering about Company accounts myself, I have no sympathy for the Moody-Stewarts nor the Sir Allan Burns and those who can well fend for themselves. Perhaps if I saw them barefooted in a tattered shirt with an idle cutlass swinging by their side, and staring hungrily across the green canefields, I might shed a tear—but since they are not out there in the sun and contrarily three million West Indians have been sentenced to a life dependent on King Sugar, you can guess what I want to do with the Sugar Kings of London and New York.

Claim right to live on equal terms

The Caribbean Labour Congress has issued the following press statement, published here in full:

From increasing reports of cases of racial discrimination and colour prejudice in the process of seeking employment or accommodation, our Executive Committee have been compelled to issue the following:—

West Indian immigrants are now arriving in Britain at the rate of 1,000 per month; the figure is only equalled by that of the Irish and Cypriots and is more than twice that of Africans.

The total even at the end of 1954 will still ONLY be approximately 0.2% of the total population in Britain.

A sizable proportion of the immigrants have entered Britain with the sole intention of qualifying in an academic or technical profession since there are NO SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES for learning, especially in the West Indies. The remaining immigrants enter Britain in search of employment on the same conditions and rates as are popularly boasted, in order to attain similar living standards.

CLOSE BONDS

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) directs every member, ally and friend to IMMEDIATELY join his appropriate Trade Union or professional association in order to establish the closest bonds with fellow workers and colleagues.

Coloured workers are NOT enemies of the British workers. Coloured workers want higher wages and improved conditions; coloured workers are very ambitious to acquire great skill and contribute to the world of plenty.

When the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) contributed £2-2-0 to the Dockers' appeal of October 21st from our meagre funds, this token sum was an indication of West Indian solidarity with British workers in the common struggle.

British workers in their own interest, in accordance with normal self-respecting principles, must offer the hand of friendship and equality, in order to prevent employers or any other faction from building up a force of competitive labour outside their own ranks which might be a threat to even existing conditions.

The colonial conditions that have led to large-scale emigration from the colonies are no fault of the colonial people. These children of fate are as any other human being who aspire to a better life and undergo much agony in the process.

NOT SYMPATHY

West Indians, coloured people, or any other colonials do not demand sympathy, but claim the absolute right to live on equal terms in a just society based entirely on their will and capacity to contribute their appropriate share.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) have many experienced Trade Unionists within our ranks, and we are fully equipped to discuss the obvious problems that have arisen. We therefore earnestly appeal for the closest co-operation to solve an inevitable situation that summons every degree of honesty and sincerity.

OUTCRY FOR REFORM

ON the heels of the sugar workers strike comes news that Trinidad's legislators have unanimously moved that some measure of constitutional advance should be considered. The motion calls for an investigating committee which would contain all elected members of the present Legislative Council.

According to the 1950 Constitution there are 18 elected members on Trinidad's Legislative Council of whom five are Ministers. It was in 1924, exactly 30 years ago, that elected members were first allowed on a Trinidad Legislative body; whether it will take some 30 years more for elected members to have effective political power is a debatable question.

Among the points raised by the nine members who first saw the Major General the Governor Sir Hubert Rance Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George. God save him, were requests for a Prime Minister, a fully elected House and an Executive Council drawn from a responsible to the House.

Alternative policy for Jamaican voters

From our Jamaican Reporter

JAMAICA is now in the throes of a great shake-up. For the first time in years an effective challenge is being posed to the old political and union interests whose bankrupt policy in the face of mass unemployment and political disabilities is becoming more tragically patent.

Thus in the political field, the People's National Party and the Jamaica Labour Party, old stagers both, now see the rise of the People's Freedom Movement. In union affairs, the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union and the National Workers' Union face a challenge in the Sugar and Industrial Workers' Union, and the Factory and General Workers' Union.

This month has been chockful of activity by the new mass movements.

At Bambury, in Westmoreland, hundreds enrolled in a newly formed S.A.W.U. branch; at Paul Island S.A.W.U. speakers were accorded a tumultuous welcome by crowds who jam-packed the square. At Little London another new branch was formed. At Sav-La-Mar 40 workers volunteered to aid the offices of a F.G.W.U. branch.

Candidates

In the political field the People's Freedom Movement has gone on record as rejecting those candidates already named in House of Representative elections. Following this salutary step, at a mass conference held at Windsor, in St. Elisabeth and attended by delegates from over twenty districts, Clifford Gordon, vice-president of the S.A.W.U., was named as P.F.M. candidate for the constituency.

In St. Elisabeth and in Western Hanover, where Laecelles Murray is the P.F.M. candidate, Richard Hart has joined Rolly Simms and Ferdinand Smith in spearheading the election campaign. In addition to these two official candidates, P.F.M. has also indicated its support of an Independent, Mr. R. O. Gordon of Western St. Thomas.

Elections are to be held on January 12th.

SOLIDARITY

THE Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has collected and sent £15 to help the People's Freedom Movement contest the elections in Jamaica.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that the Colonial Secretary will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests—organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign...

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription ofs.d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME

ADDRESS

West Indians Celebrated 2nd. Anniversary

"CARIBBEAN News" presented a Kaleidoscope of Arts, Music, and Handicraft on Friday, November 19th, 1954, at 3, Robert Street, N.W.1.

It was a grand entertainment throughout. But the greatest moments were a study from Chopin, rendered by Margaret Rickards, and a solo for the violin, given by Billy Strachan's 11 years' old son.

Carlton Bayley drew prolonged applause for his new calypso — Tribute to the P.P.P. of Guiana.

The recital of Martin Carter's 'Poems of Resistance' by Peter Blackman rounded off the evening of a happy and well-attended gathering.



R. Chandisingh, Editor, told Anniversary Meeting the story behind Caribbean News

I hope that a good time was had by all who went on Friday night to a West Indian entertainment (including calypsos by The Mighty Terror) held in London to celebrate the second anniversary of the "Caribbean News". — Tom Driberg, "Reynolds News", 21/11/54.

Breaking New Ground

TALKING POINTS ON SPORT
by Trevor Carter

IN the next few years the West Indies will have a busy spell of international cricket. Pakistan the new entrant to International cricket is supposed to be at home to a West Indian team in 1956, however, no official comment has yet been given. Tours arranged by the West Indian cricket board of control are as follows:—

- 1955—Australia in the West Indies.
- 1955-56—West Indies in New Zealand.
- 1957—West Indies in England.
- 1957-58—Pakistan in the West Indies.

This will be the first time that an Australian team has ever visited the West Indies. It will also be the first direct visit of a West Indian team to New Zealand and Pakistan.

BRIGHT BATTING

Everton Weeks, heavy scoring Barbados born batsman has recently returned to the West Indies. Weeks is under contract by the Bermudez Biscuit Co. of Trinidad to coach young cricketers in the West Indies. It should be looked forward to with great expectations of success in this venture, because Weeks, who without doubt has learnt the hard way, would surely eliminate some of the antiquated text-book coaching.

WIN IN U.S.

Hector Constance of Trinidad gained his third successive victory in America by outpointing Ralph Jones. New York middleweight, over ten rounds at Madison Square Garden.

SOCCER VISIT

Indeed West Indians would be glad to learn that at last the various West Indian Governments will assist in financing the English Soccer Team's tour next year to the West Indies.

In Trinidad it was announced by official sources that an old debt which was owed to the Trinidad Government by the Amateur Football Association will be wiped out.

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